



April 8, 2021

The Honorable Andy Barr  
2430 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Support for Blanton's Landing "Community Project Funding" Request

Dear Congressman Barr:

I write in support of the City of Frankfort's Community Project Funding request to revitalize the empty Blanton's Landing property along the Kentucky River to create a public waterfront destination, support downtown economic development, and promote river-related tourism. The City of Frankfort seeks Economic Development Initiative funding to support final design and construction of the River Terrace element, Phase I of the overall Blanton's Landing redevelopment. This infrastructure will connect downtown businesses to the waterfront and increase viewsheds of the Kentucky River.

Blanton's Landing is currently an underutilized parking lot area along the Kentucky River. With federal support, the City of Frankfort will revitalize its waterfront to attract new economic development downtown. A feasibility study completed by design consultant MKSK in 2021 presents concepts for four basic elements at Blanton's Landing: a Kentucky River overlook at Ann Street; a dock underneath the overlook; an outdoor entertainment venue on the long, flat space of the landing's east end; and a land-based terrace connecting all three of those spaces. The revitalized Blanton's Landing will provide opportunities for riverfront recreation along a waterfront promenade, outdoor dining, docking and mooring of boats, and other open-air events.

Located in Frankfort's federally-designated Opportunity Zone, the proposed project will support downtown business growth, increase local tax revenues, create jobs, and improve quality of life.

Please give the highest consideration to the City of Frankfort's request for Community Project Funding.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Huston Wells". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Huston Wells  
Franklin County Judge/Executive